

*Send Davis  
over Sunday*

Seattle, Wash.,

May 14, 1915.

Mr. Frank L. Fuller,

Seattle Park Board,

Central Building,

Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Under 5250 drawer 4 file 3  
acc. # 00001  
General Services  
Relations  
Re parks, Sherwood files.

I am writing to you to ask your assistance in keeping tennis-players out of the Queen Anne Playfield until more reasonable hours in the morning. It has happened lately, that as many as four young men come over there at five o'clock in the morning and use their own net, the playground net being taken down every evening. The playground, as you may know, is fenced in with a high wire fence, but this does not keep the boys out- they climb over somehow, and it is absolutely impossible to get any sleep after they start in. I have gone over and talked with some of the older, more gentlemanly boys, and they have stopped, but there are those whom a person cannot appeal to personally, and of course, I could not undertake to speak to every group in this way.

I am busy down town during the day, as many in my neighborhood, and count on having required rest, but it just seems that it is impossible in the summer, without your help.

This morning the boys came over with their own net at 4:30, and they disappear before the Keeper comes, at eight o'clock. These boys are school boys who play all day, besides.

I am at a loss to know what to suggest, but perhaps a sign to the effect of prohibiting anyone in the playgrounds until the gates are opened would help. Still, as there is no one in authority to enforce such, I don't know how it would be heeded, by the younger element at least.

Since our whole household has suffered this most distressing inconvenience for so many mornings, I feel there must be something done immediately, and therefore, appeal to you in this manner.

Thanking you in anticipation for your effective assistance,

Gratefully,

*Jeannette A. Macdonald,  
1917 Warren Ave.  
City.*

April 25, 1928.

Hon. Board of Park Commissioners:

The East Queen Anne Playfield is rather small, and we did not have a tennis court there last year. The ground is needed for playground purposes for the small children and we recommend that we do not install tennis courts.

Respectfully,

Park Engineer.

RMH-EDP

(clay surface)

"Scrub"  
ball  
field  
@ SW corner

Mr. Hoffman:

A lady came in (sent by Mr. Burnett to see you personally) to complain about the unsightly conditions at

QUEEN ANNE PLAYGROUND,  
Second, West, and Howe St.

She asks that a fence be built so as to protect property owners from flying baseballs, etc., or that trees be placed for the purpose of beautifying as well as protection. She also states that the so-called "rockery" of broken concrete does not serve the purpose for which it is intended, lying partly on the sidewalk.

She said Mr. Burnett told her to tell you and that you would investigate and see what could be done. Her property is at 2d, W. and Howe, and windows have been broken twice by thrown baseballs.

*S.B.F.*

*3/21/29 2:30 p.m.*

July 29, 1938

Mr. Eugene Webster,  
162 Newton Street,  
Seattle.

Dear Sir:

Your petition requesting that <sup>E/</sup>Queen Anne Playfield be closed at 9:00 o'clock each night was presented to the Park Board in regular session yesterday, and for your information wish to state that we will have our instructor clear the field at nine o'clock and we are also instructing the Police Department to have a prowler car check up on the field each evening after this hour.

Thanking you for your interest, we are,

Respectfully,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

By

Allen Erickson, Chief Clerk.

AL-SEP

RECEIVED

JUL 15 1938

Seattle Park Board,  
Seattle, Washington.

SEATTLE PARK DEPT.

We, the undersigned, residents of the district bordering on Queen Anne playfield, located in the block bounded by Newton and Howe Sts., and Warren and First Avenue North, do respectfully request that this field be cleared, closed and locked not later than 9:00 PM each evening.

It is our understanding that the playfield instructor leaves at 9:00 PM and he or she should be instructed to clear the field, close and lock the gates.

We are making this request due to the fact that after the instructor leaves, the older boys get in and bang the chain swings around, which makes a great deal of noise, and this combined with their loud and vile talk, makes it just about impossible to sleep, as they often are in the field as late as midnight.

Your immediate attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Eugene Webster - 162 Newton St.	L. W. Wilke 1920 - 2nd Ave. No.
Harold Blum 156 Newton	Mrs Sophia Blum 156 Newton
Nellie M. Carr 1923 Warren	Harold Gillette 2006 Warren
A. H. MacDonald 1917 Warren Ave	Mrs Ella Gillette 2006 Warren
Mrs Eva Zbinden 120 Howe St.	
Mrs Ruby Graves	1823 Warren Ave
Anna Heinrich	1819 Warren Ave
Mrs Samoreaux	1818 Warren Ave
Mrs Geo J. Jurich	165 - Howe St
Mrs Walter P. Harris	169 Howe St
Mrs J. B. Morrison	1819 - 2nd Ave North
Lacy Orr	1822 - 2nd Ave North
Mrs. L. J. Walker	1908 - 2nd St.
Mrs. Max Reed	1912 - 2nd St.
Mrs. G. Melkie	2002 2nd North
Mrs D. C. Sartou	166 Newton
Mrs J. Guillevy	120 Newton
Euler Zbinden 120 Howe St.	

(1)

December 3, 1943

✓ Mrs. F. F. Powell, Chairman  
Harbor and Public Grounds Committee  
City Council  
Seattle

Dear Madam:

We are herewith returning your File No. 179126, being petition of Walter Hinz that the East Queen Anne Playground at Warren Avenue and Newton Street, be turned over to the Orthopedic Hospital, with the following report and recommendation by the Park Board:

\*\*\*\*\*that Mrs. Powell be advised that the total cost of the property and improvements, to the Park Department, since we acquired it in 1910, is approximately \$35,000.00, and that this is the only playground for small children on Queen Anne Hill, and that unless the Board receives some assurance of being given another suitable ground in exchange, they would not recommend turning the East Queen Anne Playground over to the Orthopedic Hospital, as much as they realize the value it might be to the hospital."

Respectfully,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

By

Allen Erickson, Chief Clerk.

AE-EBF

CC Mr. Gibbs

(1)  
December 3, 1943

Mrs. F. F. Powell, Chairman  
Harbor and Public Grounds Committee  
City Council  
Seattle

Dear Madam:

We are herewith returning your File No. 179126, being petition of Walter Hinz that the East Queen Anne Playground at Warren Avenue and Newton Street, be turned over to the Orthopedic Hospital, with the following report and recommendation by the Park Board:

\*\*\*\*\*that Mrs. Powell be advised that the total cost of the property and improvements, to the Park Department, since we acquired it in 1910, is approximately \$35,000.00, and that this is the only playground for small children on Queen Anne Hill, and that unless the Board receives some assurance of being given another suitable ground in exchange, they would not recommend turning the East Queen Anne Playground over to the Orthopedic Hospital, as much as they realize the value it might be to the hospital."

Respectfully,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

By 

Allen Erickson, Chief Clerk.

AE-EBP

CC Mr. Gibbs



THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
**THE CITY OF SEATTLE**  
514 COUNTY-CITY BUILDING

MRS. F. F. POWELL  
HARBORS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS

November 29, 1943

2

Board of Park Commissioners  
City of Seattle

Gentlemen and Lady:

Re: E. Queen Anne P. G.

I am forwarding herewith File No. 179126, being  
petition of Walter Hinz that the playfield at Warren  
and Newton Streets be turned over to the Orthopedic  
Hospital, with the request that you return same together  
with your report and recommendation in duplicate.

Yours very truly,

Mildred F. Powell  
Mrs. F. F. Powell

TW  
Att.

RECEIVED  
DEC 1 - 1943  
SEATTLE P.M.

January 16, 1951

National Production Authorities  
Washington, D. C.

25,

Ref: N-4

Gentlemen:

This is a request to construct a toilet and service building at our East Queen Anne Playground at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00

The existing structure that this building is to replace was constructed 40 years ago and is unfit for further use and beyond repair to meet safety and health standards.

The building will consist of boys' and girls' toilet rooms and storage space for field maintenance and playground equipment.

The plans are completed and we are ready to call for bids as soon as we receive authority from you to do so. Local material, such as concrete, wood and brick will be used in construction of the building and only a small amount of vital materials, such as plumbing fixtures and wiring will be used.

This building is vitally needed for the continuance of our recreational program on this active playground.

Your early approval will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Paul V. Brown  
Superintendent of Parks

cc-Regional Director  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce-Seattle

WCH:cm

March 13, 1951

Mr. John B. Cain  
Superintendent, Building Department  
The City of Seattle  
County-City Building  
Seattle 4, Washington

Re: Inspection of Two Comfort Stations

Dear Mr. Cain:

We have two comfort stations, one at Beacon Hill, 13th Ave. S. and Holgate St., and one at East Queen Anne Playground, Warren Ave. and Howe St., which were constructed 35 or 40 years ago.

We consider these two buildings a hazard to public health and safety. The Council has appropriated funds for their removal and construction of new buildings, and we have made application to the National Production Authority for approval for this construction.

Would you please make an inspection of these two buildings and report to us your findings? We would like to submit your report along with ours to the National Production Authority. We have contacted the Health Department and they are giving us a report on the sanitary condition of the buildings.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

W. C. Hall - Engineer

WCH:am

E. G. A. ⑦  
Queen Anne  
Fieldhouse

Mr. Hans Thompson  
100 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle, Wn., 98109

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1969

SEATTLE PARKS & RECREATION  
SUPERINTENDENT

July 31, 1969

Dear Mr. Thompson: *Wed.*

On July 30th a neighbor and I took six small children to play in the pool of Little Howe Field. There was no water in the pool, because the girl in charge was absent. This is the second time that this has happened on a hot day when we especially need the park for our little children.

Even when the girl or girls in charge are on duty, we seldom see them. Those in charge are grossly remiss in supervising the children at the field. Because of the inadequate supervision, parents are forced to accompany their children to the field. What are these girls being paid for? They are conspicuous by their absence.

My children used to play at Little Howe Field when they were the age of my grandchildren and the supervision was excellent. Irresponsibility in this matter is inexcusable. There is no good reason why supervision today should be different from what it was then.

*4 1/2 week*  
The Queen Anne Fieldhouse could not be in worse condition than it is this year. Windows have been broken; shattered glass is everywhere. The grass is neglected. Debris is scattered everywhere.

*Louise popped out*  
Many of the children who played at Little Howe Field last year are not going there this year, because it is no longer safe for younger children. These children are being deprived of their rights to this field because of inadequate supervision. This is a gross injustice to the children and to their taxpaying parents.

The block adjoining the field, purchased by the city for additional playground facilities, is fast becoming a slum. On the other hand, if this block is incorporated into the Little Howe Field and subjected to the same gross neglect, it will be a disaster for our neighborhood. In other words: why enlarge something that cannot be properly maintained even now?

The numerous complaints stated in this letter represent a considerable segment of public opinion in this neighborhood. We hope there will be no need to have recourse to more dramatic and public means for stating our grievances; however, if improvements are not forthcoming, a committee will be formed and a public protest will be in order.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

*Mrs. James Navone*  
Mrs. James Navone  
1614 3rd. Ave. West  
AT 3 2370

## HISTORY:

THE ONLY NARRATIVES OR COMPILATIONS OF HISTORIC DATA BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE IN THE GENERALIZED ANNUAL REPORTS, CONTRACT IMPROVEMENT LISTS OR CONTAINED IN CORRESPONDENCE TO PUBLIC OR STAFF, OR IN PETITIONS OR COMPLAINTS FROM CITIZENS OR GROUPS. PORTIONS OF HISTORY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN INTO NEWS STORIES BY THE DAILY AND COMMUNITY PRESS, STUDIES BY PLANNING GROUPS IN CITY AND COMMUNITY AND THESES BY MANY STUDENTS.

IN 1972 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO REMOVE ALL THE "OLD" CORRESPONDENCE, ETC., FROM THE OVERCROWDED FILES: FOR EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION. BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY "HIDDEN" IN THESE FILES IT WAS ORDERED THAT THEY BE SORTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE - WHICH PRECLUDED THE ULTIMATE "IN DEPTH" SEARCH IN LIBRARY AND NEWSPAPER, ETC., ETC., FOR EACH PARK AND PLAYGROUND.

[AN EARLIER CLEARING OF THE FILES AND THE SUBSEQUENT STORAGE OF THEM BECAME SUCH A NUISANCE THAT THEY WERE DELIBERATELY BURNED - WIPING OUT ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND MANY ANNUAL REPORTS PRIOR TO ABOUT 1908.]

1910 - 1928 THIS FILE

SO HERE ARE THE CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOUND IN FILE THAT SEEM TO BEST DESCRIBE THE HISTORY OF THIS PARK OR PLAYGROUND ———

folder 5250 drawer 4 file 3  
date \_\_\_\_\_ acc. # \_\_\_\_\_  
park General Services 00002  
subject ~~History~~ History  
Seattle parks, Sherwood files.

# E. QUEEN ANNE P.G.

<u>CONTR.#</u>	<u>IMPROVEMENT</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
(Annual Report + Photo)	Comfort Station		} 1911	\$6,174.16 (Annual Report)
2	Wading Pool			
"Old"	Tennis Courts			
	Swings/slides/Rings			
	Landscaping		1928	
81	Grading for ballfield	Standard Fence Co.	1/31/30	\$2,586.00
26	Fence	Joe Logozo	9/3/27	
	Misc. Sewer Work	WPA	1941	
465	steps, well	G.W. Fuller Co.	8/1/51	\$11,515.00
	Shelter House			
Cont.	Window Screening	Rainier Ornamental Iron Works	6/10/54	306.94
Cont.	Repair Ex. Pool	Washington Asphalt Co.	7/23/54	474.83
867	Development	F.S. Jones Const.	1970	\$23,044.70
		Design, Glen Hunt		3,500.00
		Design Review Commission		210.00

In 1910 this small block of property was purchased from John and Ida Watson; its size and location gave rise to the neighborhood name "Little Howe" - especially since the Dept. did not identify the playground by name on the site. Similarly the larger M. Queen Anne Playfield was dubbed "Howe Field". [Howe St. is probably named for James B. Howe, who came to Seattle in 1889 and became a leading member of the Seattle Bar Assoc. and of the community. Warren Av. honors either an early Seattle Chief of Police or the General of Bunker Hill fame.]

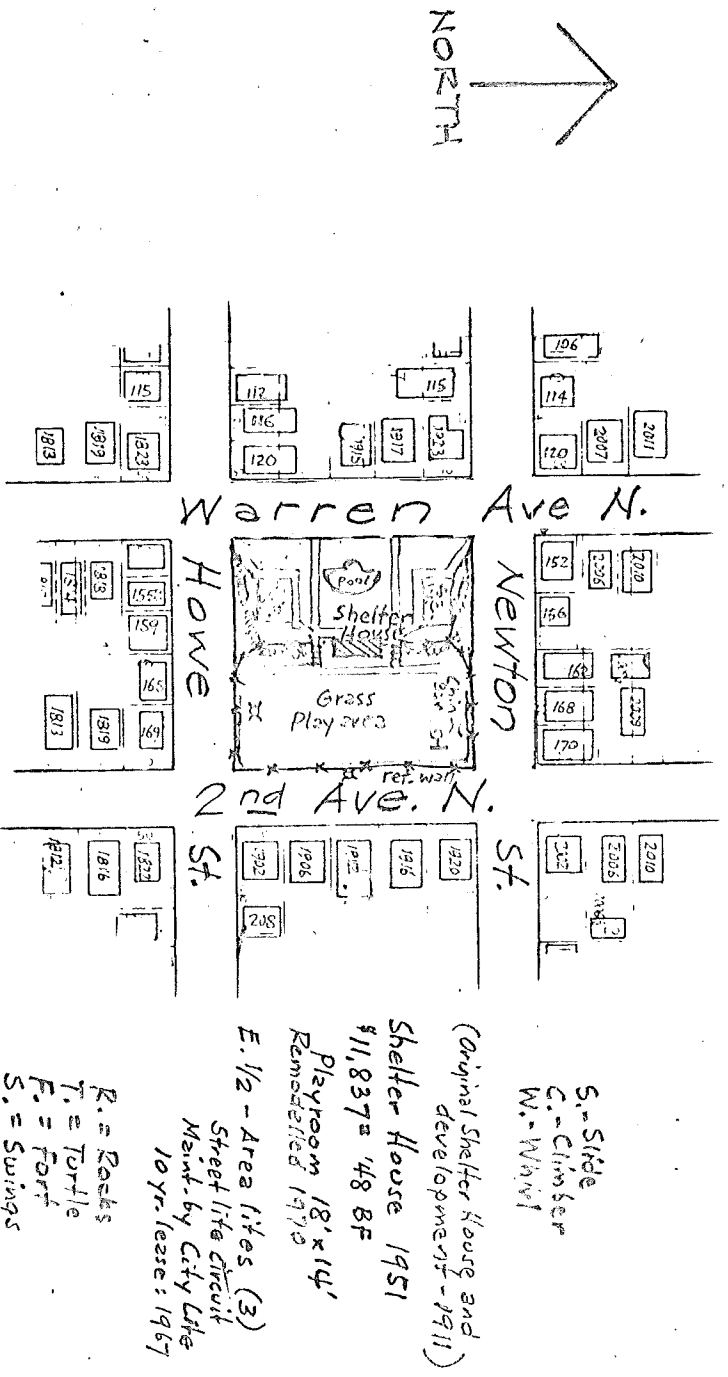
Queen Anne Hill so named because of the architectural style emerging in 1870's; ref: M. Queen Anne P.F.

"Little Howe" was improved immediately: because of topography it was graded into two levels with two Tennis Courts (with typical clay surface) and basketball and playcourt on the upper level, and a frame Comfort Station, round (typical) wading pool flanked with sets of swings, rings + slides on the lower level: with landscaping on the perimeter and center slope.

By 1928 the pressure for "playground" (ball) was such that the unsatisfactory clay surface for Tennis Courts was not replaced with asphalt or the newer concrete: instead a "scrub" ballfield was graded at the southwest corner for the little children - the big kids now had the new "Howe Field".

The City Council received a petition in 1943 the the playground be turned over to the nearby Orthopedic Hospital, but the Park Board held out for other "suitable ground" in exchange.

By 1951 the old Comfort Station was considered "a hazard to public health and safety" and approval for construction of a new Shelter House on the upper level was secured from the post-war National Production (Control) Authority. And the old wading pool - and play equipment - were patched and repaired one more time. Hence it became a project for the Forward Thrust program in 1970, when the Shelter House was remodelled and the entire playground redeveloped with pool and playequipment on the upper level.



## EAST QUEEN ANNE PLAYGROUND History

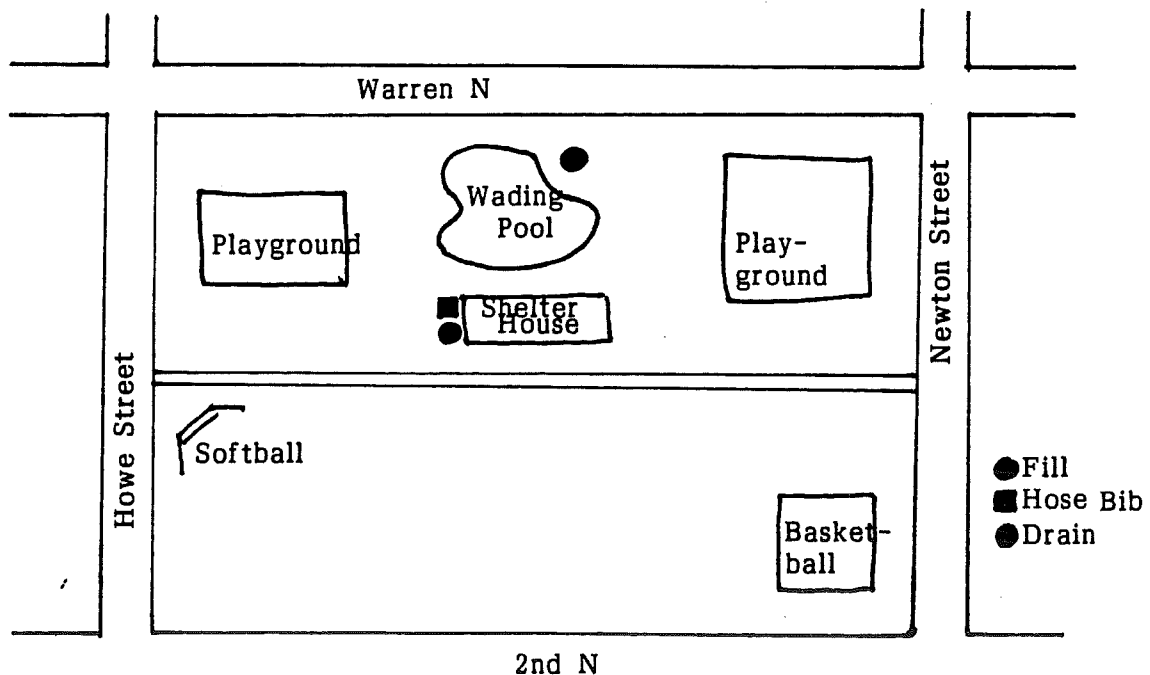
In 1910 this property was purchased from John and Ida Watrons. Its size and location gave rise to the neighborhood name "Little Howe" - especially since the Department did not identify the playground by name on the site. Similarly, the larger West Queen Anne Playfield was dubbed "Howe Field". (Howe street is probably named for James B. Howe, who came to Seattle in 1889 and became a leading member of the Seattle Bar Association and of the community. Warren Avenue honors either an early Seattle Chief of Police or the General of Bunker Hill fame.)

Queen Anne Hill so named because of the architectural style emerging in the 1870's.

"Little Howe" was improved immediately, and because of the topography it was graded into two levels with landscaping on the perimeter and center slope.

The City Council received a petition in 1943 that the playground be turned over to the nearby Orthopedic Hospital, but the Park Board held out for other "suitable ground in exchange".

By 1951 the old Comfort Station was considered "a hazard to public health and safety" and approval for construction of a new Shelter House on the upper level was secured from the post-war National Production (Control) Authority. The old wading pool and play equipment were patched and repaired at that time. Hence it became a project for the Forward Thrust program in 1970, when the Shelter House was remodelled and the entire playground re-developed with pool and play equipment on the upper level.



folder 5250 drawer 4 file 3  
date \_\_\_\_\_ acc. # \_\_\_\_\_  
park EAST QUEEN ANNE PLAYGROUND **00003**  
subject HISTORY  
Seattle parks, Sherwood files.